

Amendment to the Claims

The applicants had previously argued that all claims of the application were allowable over these references. Specifically, the applicants asserted that Lancesseur required four (4) components to be present for his composition, whereas the applicants' composition only required two (2) components. The USPTO rejected these arguments, particularly the argument that Lancesseur failed to disclose the composition of the claimed moisture-absorbing material. The Examiner asserted that "[t]he applicant has presented a comprising claim, which does not prevent the application of additional features already in the references." In the same vein, the USPTO further stated that "... the applicant has presented a comprising claim, which does not prevent the application of additional features already in the references."

In response thereto, the applicants have amended all claims of the application to replace the transitional phrase "comprising" with the transitional phrase "consisting essentially of." The applicants have also added new Claims 22 through 30. However, each of these claims also contains the "consisting essentially of" language. While an additional component has been added to the composition claimed in these new claims, the newly claimed composition is still distinguishable from the disclosure of Lancesseur because it only requires three (3) components and because of the use of transitional language in the preamble of the

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claims.

Lancesseur teaches a particular polymer-based, dehydrating material requiring the presence of four components; 50-80% of thermalplastic or thermosetting polymer, 20-50% of a dehydration agent, 2-8% of a elastomer and 1-4% of a fiber. See col. 1, line 39-47 and col. 2, line 16-24. The presence of each of these four materials is specifically required by Lancesseur and provided the justification for the allowance of the Lancesseur application over the prior art.

In contrast, the material that is claimed in the applicants' invention comprises either only two of the four Lancesseur components i.e. a plastic material and a desiccating material (Claims 1-17) or three of the four Lancesseur components, a dehydration agent, a polymer and an elastomer (New Claims 22 - 30). The use of a fiber material, which is a required component of Lancesseur, is not required by any of the claims of the current application. Thus, the composition of the material claimed by the applicants is not disclosed by Lancesseur.

The USPTO has indicated that an amendment of this type would make the claims of the application allowable over the prior art. Specifically, the Examiner noted in the most recent Office Action, that the transitional phrase "comprising", that is present in the prior claims, does not distinguish the claims over Lancesseur. The applicants have responded to this argument by amending the claims

to introduce the more restricted transitional phrase, "consisting essentially of." The applicants assert that by this amendment all claims are placed in condition for allowance.

The applicants have added new Claims 22 - 30. These claims correspond to the Claims 1 - 9, except there is added as an additional component of the composition of the tray cover, an elastomer. Basis for this amendment is contained on page 16, line 17 through 20 and page 17, lines 8 through 10 and 13 through 14. No new subject matter is introduced by these amendments.

The status of the claims of the application follows:

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A packaging container for integrated circuits comprising

a tray for holding integrated circuits, and

a tray cover, wherein the composition of the tray cover comprises consists essentially of a plastic material, an electrostatic dissipating charge material, and a desiccating material for adsorbing moisture contained within the packaging container.

2. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 1 further comprising a humidity indicator device secured to the tray cover, which indicator device determines a humidity level within the packaging container.

3. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 2 wherein the humidity indicator device is secured into an opening in the tray cover.

4. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 1 wherein the plastic material of the tray cover comprises a polypropylene.

5. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 2 wherein the humidity indicator device comprises a humidity indicator element and a system for securing the humidity indicator element to the tray cover.

6. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 5 wherein the humidity indicator element comprises a hydrophilic blotter

substrate onto which a humidity indicator solution has been placed.

7. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 6 wherein the humidity indicator solution comprises cobalt chloride.

8. (Previously Amended) The packaging container of Claim 2 wherein the humidity indicator device is secured to the tray cover using a clear, plastic disk mounted within [the] an opening in the tray cover.

9. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 1 further comprising a water and moisture-proof barrier bag into which the tray is secured.

10. (Currently Amended) A packaging container for integrated circuits comprising

a tray for holding integrated circuits,

a tray cover, wherein the composition of the tray cover comprises consists essentially of a plastic material, an electrostatic dissipating charge material, and a desiccating material for adsorbing moisture contained within the packaging container,

a humidity indicator device secured to the tray cover for determining the humidity level within the packaging container; and

a moisture-proof barrier bag into which the tray and the tray cover are placed.

11. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 10 wherein the humidity indicator device is secured into an opening in the

tray cover.

12. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 10 wherein the composition of the tray cover further comprises an anti-static material.

13. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 10 wherein the plastic material of the tray cover comprises a polypropylene.

14. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 10 wherein the humidity indicator device comprises a humidity indicator disk and a system for securing the humidity indicator disk to the tray cover.

15. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 14 wherein the humidity indicator disk comprises a hydrophilic blotter substrate onto which a humidity indicator solution has been placed.

16. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 15 wherein the humidity indicator solution comprises cobalt chloride.

17. (Original) The packaging container of Claim 11 wherein the humidity indicator device is secured to the tray cover using a clear plastic disk mounted within the opening in the tray cover.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A packaging container for integrated circuits comprising

a tray for holding integrated circuits, and
a tray cover, wherein the composition of the tray cover
consists essentially of a plastic material, an electrostatic
dissipating charge material, an elastomer and a desiccating
material for adsorbing moisture contained within the packaging
container.

23. (New) The packaging container of Claim 22 further
comprising a humidity indicator device secured to the tray cover,
which indicator device determines a humidity level within the
packaging container.

24. (New) The packaging container of Claim 23 wherein the
humidity indicator device is secured into an opening in the tray
cover.

25. (New) The packaging container of Claim 22 wherein the
plastic material of the tray cover comprises a polypropylene.

26. (New) The packaging container of Claim 23 wherein the
humidity indicator device comprises a humidity indicator element
and a system for securing the humidity indicator element to the
tray cover.

27. (New) The packaging container of Claim 26 wherein the
humidity indicator element comprises a hydrophilic blotter
substrate onto which a humidity indicator solution has been placed.

28. (New) The packaging container of Claim 27 wherein the
humidity indicator solution comprises cobalt chloride.

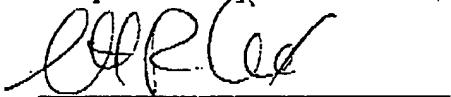
29. (New) The packaging container of Claim 23 wherein the humidity indicator device is secured to the tray cover using a clear, plastic disk mounted within [the] an opening in the tray cover.

30. (New) The packaging container of Claim 22 further comprising a water and moisture-proof barrier bag into which the tray is secured.

CONCLUSION

The applicants have amended the claims consistent with the suggestion of the Examiner in the Office Action and believe that all remaining claims, Claims 1 through 17 and 22 through 30 are allowable. If there are any issues, please contact applicants' counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

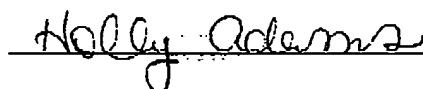


Scott R. Cox
Reg. No. 31,945
LYNCH, COX, GILMAN & MAHAN, P.S.C.
400 West Market Street, Suite 2200
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

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